

# Anatomy of the lung

(Anatomie du poumon)

Humans have **two lungs**: the left lung and the right lung. They are located **in the chest, on each side of the heart**, protected by the rib cage and separated from each other by a region known as the **mediastinum**, and resting on a muscle called the **diaphragm**.

Each lung is divided into **several parts** called **lobes**. The right lung has three lobes (upper, middle and lower) whereas the left lung has only two lobes (upper and lower).

Each lobe consists of millions of tiny sacs, **the alveoli**, connected by narrow tubes, **the bronchioles**. These bronchioles are enlarged to form **the bronchi**. The two bronchi are each connected to a lung and lead into the **trachea** which is connected to the nose and mouth.

**The role of the lungs is to exchange carbon dioxide and oxygen between ambient air and the human body.** On inspiration, air is drawn into the trachea and distributed to the bronchi, then the bronchioles and finally the alveoli. The oxygen in the air crosses the walls of the alveoli to pass into the bloodstream. The blood then distributes the oxygen to all the body's cells. At the same time, in the opposite direction, the carbon dioxide expelled by the body's cells, crosses the alveoli into the bronchioles and finally the bronchi. It escapes via the trachea then the nose and mouth. This is expiration.

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